## HERMAN & WHITEAKER, LLC

DONALD L. HERMAN, JR

GREGORY W. WHITEAKER

ROBIN E. TUTTLE†

CARRIE L. DEVIER††

CLARE C. LIEDQUIST

MOLLY O'CONOR

KENNETH C. JOHNSON†††, of counsel

† Admitted in DC, SC and FL only
†† Admitted in SC only
†† Admitted in DC and VA only

TEL 202-600-7272

FAX 202-706-6056

6720 B Rockledge Drive, Suite 150

Bethesda, MD 20817

November 19, 2018

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re:** Notice of Ex Parte; Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, Jennifer Otwell, General Manager of Totelcom Communications, LLC, Steven Steele, General Manager of Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Jamey Wigley, General Manager of Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., and their counsel, Clare Liedquist and the undersigned with Herman & Whiteaker, LLC, met with Arielle Roth, Wireline Advisor, and Kagen Despain, Legal Intern, to Commissioner Michael O'Rielly of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission"). During the meeting, Mr. Wigley and Ms. Otwell expressed concerns that recently approved universal service fund ("USF") projects in the E-Rate program will result in fiber overbuild, a potential waste to the USF. Mr. Steele explained that a recent report from the Texas Governor's office shows that 97% of schools are already connected to fiber. The real problem the majority of schools are facing now, explained Mr. Steele, is not fiber connection.

Herman & Whiteaker, LLC Page 2 of 2

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, we are filing this letter electronically in the above-captioned docket. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald L. Herman, Jr.

Clare C. Liedquist

De XI

Counsel to Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Totelcom

Communications, LLC

cc: Arielle Roth (via email)